



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE agents take custody of another violent street gang member

HOUSTON — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on Monday took into custody Paul Orozco-Moreno, 18, an illegal alien from Mexico and an admitted gang member, from the Montgomery County Sheriff's office.

Sheriff's deputies originally arrested Orozco-Moreno April 21 for burglary and possessing marijuana. He was convicted and sentenced to 45 days in juvenile jail for his crimes. As standard operating procedure regarding criminal aliens and gang members, ICE placed a "detainer" on Orozco-Moreno to ensure that he would be released into ICE custody, instead of being released to the streets.

During his interview in Montgomery County Jail, Orozco-Moreno admitted to ICE agents that he was a member of the violent Mexican Surenos street gang. He had several gang-related tattoos on his chest and back with the numbers "13" and "187." He also had a number of tattoos under his eyes.

"This arrest exemplifies our commitment to work closely with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and to use every available tool at our disposal to bring these violent criminals to justice," said Special Agent in Charge Robert P. Rutt. "We refuse to allow these criminals hide in the United States and place our children and our communities in danger."

Orozco-Moreno's arrest is part of ICE's Operation Community Shield (OCS), which began in March 2005. Since then more than 2,800 violent foreign-born criminal aliens have been identified, arrested and deported from the United States. The gang affiliations ICE has arrested include: MS 13, Surenos, Vatos, Latin Kings, and other gangs.

Under OCS, ICE has gathered thousands of names of known and suspected gang members from state and local law enforcement. ICE also collects lists of known gang members from our partners in foreign governments and local law enforcement. These names are compared against the agency's immigration and law enforcement databases to determine their immigration status and criminal background. Inquiries from state and local offices are also run through ICE's Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), which also accesses ICE immigration databases.

Orozco-Moreno has been placed into removal proceedings and will be sent back to his native Mexico. Re-entering the United States after having been deported is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in federal prison.

This arrest is part of the Department of Homeland Security's Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

ICE encourages the public to report suspicious activity by calling our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.